



# The Spectacle

## From the Office Down the Hall

### The Problem with Lovely Invaders

George Carlin said, “Some national parks have long waiting lists for camping reservations. When you have to wait a year to sleep next to a tree, something is wrong.” Sometimes we forget that Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial is, at least in a larger sense, a national park. Perhaps that is because we don’t let anyone sleep next to the Deodar Cedar, no matter how long they wait. We won’t even let you climb it. It is beautiful and, by its mere, majestic green presence, seems to speak volumes on the passing of time and natural resources—themes near and dear to the heart of any national park. But in truth, the Deodar is an interloper just as surely as was the Union Army.

However, that is not true in Chitral Gol National Park where you can sleep beside all the Deodars you want—but you have to worry about being eaten by a snow leopard (wolves are getting pretty rare). Chitral Gol National Park, a narrow, breathless high valley on the border between Pakistan and India is home to a whole forest of Himalaya Cedar, or Deodar, as we call them. So, it appears that the Deodar Cedar, at least as found in northern Virginia, is an exotic species.

In 1873, the Quartermaster General’s Office hired David H. Rhodes, a trained landscape gardener, to live in Arlington House and put some kind of order to the land once owned by Mary Lee which in places had taken on an “appearance of a wilderness of weed, in some places from five to seven feet in height,” the cemetery superintendent wrote. The



Chitral Gol National Park

following year Rhodes planted two *Cedrus deodara*, Deodar Cedars, in circular planting beds behind the House. We have one left.

When Mary Lee made her last, very sad visit to Arlington House, the Deodar was still just a seedling in a nursery across the river. It was less than that when Robert E. Lee died three years earlier. In 1925, Congress told us “to restore the Lee Mansion in the Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, to the condition in which it existed immediately prior to the Civil War...” In that condition, there was no Deodar Cedar.

So it must go. But wait, New York Times science reporter William K. Stevens said, “When these interlopers choke out native species, ecologists see a danger signal.” While the English Ivy might be some kind of ruthless, exotic strangler, surely the lovely Deodar doesn’t seem to be choking anything

at the moment. In fact, it not only provides summer shade for Arlington House (definitely a good thing), it also offers a good launching point for us to explain the concepts of historic preservation and interpretation—again, themes near and dear to the heart of a national park. So maybe we won’t cut it down just yet, but let it die out on its own instead.

There is a Deodar Cedar in Dehra Dun, India that lived 704 years. So perhaps in 2578, the Arlington House site manager will be faced with a real tickler: replant it or not? Now that is something to sleep on.

Kendell Thompson  
Site Manager  
Arlington House,  
The Robert E. Lee Memorial

# Area Special Events

## June 2-5

Annual “Blue and Gray Reunion” in Philippi, WV. Includes music, kids’ activities throughout with Saturday skirmish (1 pm) and evening Civil War Ball and night skirmish. Sunday reenactment of the Battle of Philippi at 2 pm. For more information call 304-457-4265

Tour, Gettysburg (PA) Battlefield, covers all three days of fighting. A Civil War Weekend Tour. \$595 per person includes upscale lodging (double occupancy), tour and most meals. [www.civilwarweekend.com](http://www.civilwarweekend.com) or 866-CWW-TOUR.

## June 4

Bus tour, “Antietam (MD) 101,” with Ted Alexander. Leaves from the Mayflower Hotel, Connecticut Avenue and DeSales Street NW, Wash. DC at 8:30 am (see website for other stops). \$132. Sponsored by the Smithsonian Associates. 202-786-327 or [www.CivilWarStudies.org](http://www.CivilWarStudies.org).

Special program, “Field Hospital Demonstration,” at the Pry House Field Hospital Museum on the Antietam Battlefield near Sharpsburg (MD) in cooperation with the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 11 am-3 pm. 301-695-1864 or [www.civilwarmed.org](http://www.civilwarmed.org).

Manassas (VA) Heritage Railway Festival includes displays, living history and much more downtown at the Manassas Museum. 703-368-8453 or [www.manassasmuseum.org](http://www.manassasmuseum.org).

## June 4-5

Living history, “Confederate Artillery,” at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA. Noon-5 pm. Free with admission. [www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org](http://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org) or 717-260-1861.

Living history encampments at Spangler’s Spring, Gettysburg (PA) National Park. Free. 717-338-9114 or [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett).

Living history, “Wounded at Monocacy,”

Civil War medical demonstrations and talks about Frederick hospitals after the nearby battles at the Monocacy National Battlefield near Frederick, MD. Free. 301-662-3515 or [www.nps.gov/mono](http://www.nps.gov/mono).

Reenactment and living history at Dorey Park, east of Richmond, VA (entrance off Darbytown Road). Annual event includes encampments, military and civilian demonstrations and battles each day at 2 pm. Civil War dance 8 pm Saturday. Details: Meadow Farm Museum, 804-501-5520.

Anniversary living history and ranger programs at Cold Harbor, part of the Richmond (VA) National Battlefield Park. 10 am-5 pm Saturday, 10 am-4 pm Sunday. Candlelight tour and concert 8 pm Saturday. Free. 804-226-1981 or [www.nps.gov/rich](http://www.nps.gov/rich).

## June 5

Bus tour, DC/VA “Stuart’s Ride Around McClellan,” near Richmond with Ed Bearss. Leaves from the Air and Space Museum at 7:30 am. \$137. Sponsored by the Smithsonian Associates. [www.CivilWarStudies.org](http://www.CivilWarStudies.org) or 202-786-327.

Artillery demonstrations at Fort Washington Park, MD (I-495, exit 3A). 1, 2 and 3 pm. Free with park admission. 301-763-4600 or [www.nps.gov/fowa](http://www.nps.gov/fowa).

## June 6

Bus tour, “Gateway to the Shenandoah,” includes sites related to Jackson, Stuart and Mosby in Northern Virginia and several Blue Ridge Mountain gaps. Leaves from Claude Moore Park in Sterling, VA. \$45. Box lunch available. Reservations: 703-444-1275.

## June 9

Anniversary commemoration of the 1864 “Old Men and Young Boys” battle at Blandford Church in Petersburg, VA. 5 pm. Free. 804-733-2400.

## June 9-12

Greater Gettysburg (PA) Brass Band Festival

at the Cyclorama Center, Gettysburg (PA) National Park. Free. 717-338-9114 or [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett).

## June 10

Special Fredericksburg NPS “History at Sunset” tour, “The Sunken Road Reclaimed,” an inside look at the restoration of the famous road that figured prominently in the battles at Fredericksburg (VA) at the National Park visitor center. 7-8:30 pm. Free. 540-373-6122 or [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp).

## June 10-12

Reenactment, “Hunter’s Raid at Lexington,” living history, battles and period entertainment at the Oak Hill/Cameron Plantation, two miles north of Lexington (VA) on Route 39. Sponsored by the Virginia Horse Center Foundation. More info: [www.horsecenter.org/civilwar](http://www.horsecenter.org/civilwar).

## June 11

Special programs, “Life in Mr. Lincoln’s Navy” at noon and “Civil War Submarines” at 2 pm, at the USS Constellation anchored in Baltimore’s (MD) Inner Harbor. Free with admission. [www.constellation.org](http://www.constellation.org) or 410-539-1797.

Walking tour of the Allison Farm, a seldom-visited area that was the scene of heavy fighting during the battle of Cold Harbor (Richmond), led by historian Gordon Rhea. Talk before the tour at Beulah Church. Event part of the annual meeting of the Richmond (VA) Battlefields Association. 9 am. Free. Details, directions: [www.saverichmondbattlefields.org](http://www.saverichmondbattlefields.org).

Bus tour, “Drewry’s Bluff,” includes audio-visual presentation and tour of the site overlooking the James River. Begins at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond (VA) at 8 am. Returns noon. \$30. Reservations by May 28. More info: 804-649-1861 extension 20. or [vyates@moc.org](mailto:vyates@moc.org)

Civil War Camp Day at Fort Ward Museum in Alexandria, VA. Living history drills and

## Area Special Events (continued)

demonstrations throughout the day.  
Candlelight tour of the fort in the evening.  
Details: 703-838-4848.

Bus tour, DC/VA, "Petersburg Campaign, 1865," with Will Greene. Leaves from the Air and Space Museum at 8 am (see website for other stops). \$134. Sponsored by the Smithsonian Associates. 202-786-327 or [www.CivilWarStudies.org](http://www.CivilWarStudies.org).

### June 11-12

Special event with living history, "150 Years of Service: Saint Elizabeth's Hospital." Civil War encampments, living history impressions, speakers, period music on Saturday, Civil War-era medical displays and demonstrations. Opened prior to the war as the Government Hospital for the Insane, part of the facility was converted into a general hospital for sick and wounded Union soldiers during the war. Lincoln visited often. The anniversary event is free. The hospital is located at 2700 Martin Luther King Ave SE, Washington, DC. Phone 202-645-9770.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Arlington House was the home of Robert E. Lee and his family for thirty years and is uniquely associated with the Washington and Custis families. It is now preserved as a memorial to General Lee, who gained the respect of Americans in both the North and the South.

**Arlington House**  
**The Robert E. Lee Memorial**  
c/o George Washington Memorial Parkway  
Turkey Run Park  
McLean, VA 22101

**Phone**  
703-235-1530

**Web Site**  
<http://www.nps.gov/arho>

**The Spectacle online**  
<http://www.nps.gov/arho/tour/spectacle.html>

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Living history encampments at the Pennsylvania Memorial and Spangler's Spring, demonstrations on Little Round Top, Gettysburg (PA) National Park. Free. 717-338-9114 or [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett).

Special living history program, "Cavaliers, Courage and Coffee: The Night Belonged to Mosby." Walking tours of Atoka, VA, a familiar place to John Singleton Mosby between Middleburg and Upperville on Route 50. Lantern tour Saturday begins at 8 pm, Sunday tours begin 3 pm. Sponsored by the Mosby Heritage Area. Tours begin at the Caleb Rector House. Free, donations welcome. [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org) or 540-687-6681 or .

Reenactment, "The Battle of Williamsburg," living history, food, music and battles each day at Endview Plantation in Newport News, VA. 10 am-4 pm. \$7. 757-887-1862 or [www.endview.org](http://www.endview.org).

Medical living history at the Exchange Hotel and Civil War Museum in Gordonsville, VA. Drill and camp life demonstrations with medical and surgical living history presentations. Free with admission. [www.hgiexchange.org](http://www.hgiexchange.org).

Blue and Gray Days at Point Lookout State Park (Fort Lincoln), MD. Military and civilian living history at the site of this major POW camp on the Chesapeake Bay. 11 am-5 pm Saturday and 10 am-4 pm Sunday. Service fee charged for park. More info: 301-872-5688.

Living history, "Artillery Hell," firing demonstrations at the Antietam (MD) National Battlefield at 11 am, 2 and 4 pm Saturday; 11 am and 2 pm Sunday. Free with admission. or [www.nps.gov/anti](http://www.nps.gov/anti) or 301-432-5124.

### June 17

Special Fredericksburg (VA) NPS "History at Sunset" tour, "Widow Spindle's Flight and a Fuss Over Fence Rails," Laurel Hill and opening clash at Spotsylvania. Meets at Stop

13. 7-8:30 pm. Free. 540-373-6122 or [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp).

### June 18

Walking tour, "Victorian Symbolism in Cemetery Art," at Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg, VA. Meets at the visitor center 7 pm. Free. 804-732-3531 extension 217.

Living history, artillery demonstrations on Stuart's Hill, Manassas (VA) National Battlefield Park. 1 and 2 pm. Free with park admission. [www.nps.gov/mana](http://www.nps.gov/mana) or 703-361-1339.

"Juneteenth Celebration" in Newport News (VA) commemorating the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation to Texas slaves in 1865. At the Newsome House. 10 am-4 pm. [www.newsomehouse.org](http://www.newsomehouse.org) or 757-247-2360.

"Juneteenth Celebration" at the Booker T. Washington National Monument near Hardy, VA commemorating the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation to Texas slaves in 1865. 11 am-4 pm. 540-721-2094 or [www.nps.gov/bowa](http://www.nps.gov/bowa).

Bus tour, "Lee's Retreat," includes Petersburg-area sites and Appomattox. Leaves from Lee Hall Mansion in Newport News, VA. 8 am-6 pm. \$35. Reservations. 757-888-3371.

### June 18-19

Special program, "The United States Sanitary Commission," talk and camp at Maryland Monument at the Antietam, MD National Battlefield. 11 am, 2 and 4 pm Saturday; 11 am and 2 pm Sunday. Free with admission. 301-432-5124 or [www.nps.gov/anti](http://www.nps.gov/anti).

Living history, "Federal Artillery Demonstration," at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA. Noon-5 pm. Free with admission. 717-260-1861 or [www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org](http://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org).

Hospital Demonstration with living history and other programs at Schmucker Hall,

(continued on page 4)

## Area Special Events (continued)

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA. Infantry living history program at the Pennsylvania Memorial, Gettysburg National Park. Free. 717-338-9114 or [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett).

Lynchburg Civil War Days commemorates the anniversary of the 1864 Battle of Lynchburg, VA with living history, music, tours, talks and much more at Sandusky Historic Site and Civil War Museum. 434-832-0162 or [www.historicsandusky.org](http://www.historicsandusky.org).

### June 19

Walking tour, "The Lincoln Assassination," two-hour tour begins at the Jackson statue, Lafayette Square, Wash. DC. 11 am. \$15. Reservations not necessary. 301-294-9514 or [info@dcsightseeing.com](mailto:info@dcsightseeing.com).

### June 23-26

Seminar, "Lighting the Fuse: The Causes of the Civil War and the Opening Battles," at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, WV sponsored by the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War. Includes tours, lectures, panel discussions and much more. \$275-\$425. 304-876-5429 or [www.shepherd.edu/gtmcweb/seminars](http://www.shepherd.edu/gtmcweb/seminars).

### June 24-26

Heritage Fair, "The Civil War Era in the Little Levels," music, living history and much more during festival in Hillsboro, WV. More info: 800-336-7009.

### June 24

Special Fredericksburg (VA) NPS "History at Sunset" tour, "A Walk on Stafford Heights: Ferry Farm, Pine Grove, and Stafford County in the Civil War," a first-ever Civil War walking tour of George Washington's boyhood home. 7-8:30 pm. Free. 540-373-6122 or [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp).

### June 24-July 3

Gettysburg (PA) Civil War Heritage Days. Call 717-334-6274 for details about the community-wide commemoration.

### June 25

Living history, "Drilling with the 3rd US Infantry," soldier life, drill and firing demonstrations at Fort Ward in Alexandria, VA. 9 am-5 pm. Free. 703-838-4848 or [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

Commemoration of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge at the state park near Randolph, VA. Free. 434-454-4312.

Twilight tours of the Surratt House Museum in Clinton, MD. 6-8 pm. \$1. Details: [www.surratt.org](http://www.surratt.org) or 301-868-1121.

### June 25-26

Living history, "The Stonewall Brigade," infantry demonstrations at the Antietam (MD) National Battlefield 11 am, 2 and 4 pm Saturday; 11 am and 2 pm. Sunday. Free with admission. [www.nps.gov/anti](http://www.nps.gov/anti) or 301-432-5124.

Living history, "Corbit's Charge Commemorative Weekend," in downtown Westminster, MD on the June 29, 1863, cavalry clash in the town. Includes encampment all weekend, tours of the battle sites, food, music and more. Free. 410-848-9531 or [www.pccwrt.addr.org](http://www.pccwrt.addr.org).

Living history, "The Battlefield Embalmer: Preserving the Civil War Dead," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, MD. 11 am-3 pm. Free with admission. 301-695-1864 or [www.civilwarmed.org](http://www.civilwarmed.org).

"Old Time Fair" at Pamplin (VA) Historical Park features 19th-century entertainment and Civil War-era living history. Free with admission. 877-PAMPLIN or [www.pamplinpark.org](http://www.pamplinpark.org).

Living history, artillery demonstrations on Stuart's Hill, Manassas (VA) National Battlefield Park. 1 and 2 pm. Free with park admission. 703-361-1339 or [www.nps.gov/mana](http://www.nps.gov/mana).

Living history, military and civilian portrayals at the Appomattox (VA) Court House National Historical Park. Free with admission. [www.nps.gov/apco](http://www.nps.gov/apco) or 434-352-8987.

Living history, encampment, military and civilian demonstrations, and more on the Cross Keys battlefield (Widow Pence Farm) southeast of Harrisonburg, VA. Details: [www.widowpencefarm.com](http://www.widowpencefarm.com).

Anniversary living history and ranger programs at Gaines' Mill, part of the Richmond (VA) National Battlefield Park. 10 am-5 pm Saturday, 10 am-4 pm Sunday. Free. 804-226-1981 or [www.nps.gov/rich](http://www.nps.gov/rich).

Living history encampments at the Pennsylvania Memorial, Pitzer Woods, Spangler's Spring and Meade's Headquarters, Gettysburg (PA) National Park. Free. 717-338-9114 or [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett)

## AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please contact Delphine Gross no later than the 20th of each month with availability dates and times to be posted the following month (Please call by June 20th with July information). Even if you are a regularly scheduled VIP please contact Delphine to confirm your availability. Again, the contact number is (703) 235-1530 ext. 227. Please leave the dates and times you are available on the voice mail. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

# Significant Historic Events in June

## SUMMER AT ARLINGTON...

During the summer months, the Lees would often leave Arlington to visit family, friends and medicinal spas in Western Virginia. In the 19th Century, Washington was not only hot and humid in the summer, but the swamps around the Potomac were an excellent breeding ground for mosquitoes. Malaria was a constant threat. Robert E. Lee considered Arlington unhealthy in the summer and frequently urged Mrs. Lee to take the children to a safer location.

On the other hand, residents of Washington often made Arlington Spring a place of recreation. The Spring, which emerged near the roots of “an aged and majestic oak,” provided a suitable location for picnicking and dancing. Mr. Custis welcomed the public and probably made a small profit from transportation to the Spring and from the refreshments sold there. “Otherwise, he would not have had the money to erect several buildings for the accommodation of visitors..., supply them gratis with such things as ice, and provide slaves to wait on the guests and maintain the grounds and buildings...” Financial considerations were incidental to the pleasure Custis received from mingling with the throngs at the Spring.” There were usually 50-100 visitors to the Spring daily, and Custis was often on hand to greet them at the little dock, the arched entrance that separated the Spring from the rest of the estate, or at one of the pavilions. “Dressed in old-fashioned knee breeches and ruffled shirt, he seemed almost a figure out of the past, but so engaging was his personality, strangers soon felt like old friends.” Often Mr. Custis personally entertained his guests with skillful violin playing. Arlington Spring maintained a family atmosphere; Mr. Custis forbade the use of alcoholic beverages.

## June 1829

Robert E. Lee graduated second in his class at West Point.

## June 1854

George Washington Custis Lee graduated first in his class at West Point while Brevet Colonel Robert E. Lee was Superintendent of the Military Academy.

## June 1, 1861

A minor skirmish between United States and Confederate troops occurred at Arlington Mill. The mill on which Mr. Custis and Robert E. Lee had “spent so much money and labor” had already been “partially dismantled by soldiers who wanted boards for one purpose or another,” but it was “irreparably damaged” by the skirmish.

## June 2, 1832

Lieutenant Lee wrote his wife at Arlington, once again urging her to join him at Fort Monroe. Pregnant with her first child, Mary had been reluctant to leave the Custises and her childhood home. “What fatigued you so much?”, the solicitous father-to-be asked. “Did I not tell you Molly to be careful & did you not promise? Answer me that Madam if you please. I will tell you Mrs. Lee before you come down, that I will keep a remarkably tight rein over you this summer & you will not be allowed to do as heretofore. How I do wish that we were all quietly arranged here now—you & our goods and chattels. And what a delightful time we shall have with our dear Mother...” (Mrs. Lee did join her husband at Old Point Comfort during the month of June, and there their first child, George Washington Custis Lee, was born on September 16, 1832.)

## June 2, 1873

Mrs. Lee saw Arlington for the last time. In the afternoon, she was driven over from Ravensworth, where she was visiting Mrs. Fitzhugh. “Too crippled to get out of her carriage, she could only gaze sadly about the scenes so dear to her memory. Some of the old servants were still there, and these came out to greet her. From them, she learned that there was little left to salvage in the way of furnishings, so after having a cup of water from the well, she asked her coachman to take her away. ‘I rode out to my dear home,’

she wrote of her sad visit, ‘but so changed it seemed but a dream of the past. I could not have realized that it was Arlington but for the few old oaks they had spared & the trees planted on the lawn by the Genl & myself which are raising their tall branches to the Heaven which seems to smile on the desecration around them.” Mrs. Lee died 5 months later on November 5, 1873.

## June 9, 1848

GWP Custis helped pull the massive 12-ton cornerstone of the Washington Monument from the freight yard to the construction site. According to a newspaper account, a great number of patriotic citizens turned out to drag the stone to its final location. “Among these was observed the venerable GWP Custis, who seemed to be inspired by the same enthusiasm...” On or about the same day, Brevet Colonel Robert E. Lee was preparing to leave Vera Cruz at the end of the Mexican War.

## June 9, 1863

Colonel Orton Williams, brother of Markie Williams, cousin of the Lees, and unsuccessful suitor of Agnes Lee, was executed as a spy at about 9:30 a.m. On June 8, Orton Williams (who had changed his name to Lawrence Williams Orton) and a companion, Walter Gibson Peter, had ridden into the camp of the 85th Indiana near Franklin, Tennessee, dressed in United States Army uniforms and claimed to be inspectors in the United States Army. Suspicions were aroused, the two young Confederate military officers were detained; and they were tried and condemned as spies in the early morning hours of June 9th. In a final letter to his sister, Markie, Orton Williams protested that he was not a spy, “With my dying breath I deny the charge.” But “the purpose of Orton Williams’ strange escapade remains a mystery.”

At about 4:30 p.m. on the same day, as Orton Williams was hanged, General W.H. F. “Rooney” Lee was severely wounded in the leg at the Battle of Brandy Station, Virginia-

## Significant Historic Events in June (continued)

the largest cavalry battle ever fought in North America. As he approached the field, Robert E. Lee was shocked to meet his own son being carried to the rear. He immediately assigned his youngest son, Robert, Jr., to escort Rooney to the Wickham estate, "Hickory Hill," near Ashland, Virginia. "As soon as the family learned of Rooney's condition, Mrs. Lee, Rooney's wife, Charlotte, and Agnes hurried to the Wickham estate, accompanied by Mildred, who had returned to Virginia on vacation from school."

### June 13, 1865

Robert E. Lee applied for a pardon to recover his citizenship from President Andrew Johnson, partly to set an example for other Southerners. "News that General Lee had asked for a pardon soon became known. It had much the effect with the South that Grant and Halleck had predicted. Many of those who had fought with General Lee reasoned that they could safely follow his leadership in this particular and could accept the President's amnesty. But there were diehards...who swore they would never follow his example. No single act of his career aroused so much antagonism. Twenty years after his death, some of the 'unreconstructed' Southerners were still insistent that Lee had erred, and, by asking a pardon, had admitted a fault. In the North, his action was received with mild satisfaction as something in the nature of a dying sinner's repentance..."

### June 14, 1825

Pierre L'Enfant died penniless at Chilham Castle Manor, the estate of his friend and benefactor, William Dudley Digges in Green Hills, Maryland. He was buried on the estate for nearly 84 years until his remains were reinterred in Arlington Cemetery on April 28, 1909.

### June 15, 1800

Brevet Major GWP Custis resigned his commission in the United States Army, which he had entered on January 8, 1799.

### June 15, 1864

Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs officially proposed that a military cemetery be established at Arlington estate, and Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton approved the proposal the same day. More than a dozen soldiers were already buried at Arlington, the first, Private William Christman, on May 13.

### June 18, 1839

Anne Carter Lee, named for her father's mother, Ann Carter, was born at Arlington. Though the Lee family had traveled from St. Louis only a month earlier, Lieutenant Lee had to leave Arlington before his daughter was born. The birth apparently went well, though Anne Lee was born with a "port wine stain" birthmark, which seems to have caused her parents some concern.

### June 18, 1793

Henry Lee, 37, married Ann Hill Carter, 20, at "Shirley" on the James River.

### June 21, 1853

President and Mrs. Franklin Pierce visited Arlington House. In May 1854, Mr. Custis dined with the President in the White House and then presented him with British and Hessian colors captured at Trenton and Yorktown, which Congress had earlier presented to George Washington.

### June 24, 1853

The Daily National Intelligencer reported that "All the lower suite of rooms of the Presidential Mansion, with some of the second story, are in the occupancy of the bricklayer, the plasterer, the carpenter, and the like, who are making considerable changes and effecting improvements and repairs. These things are done under the general superintendence of Captain Lee of the Engineers..."

### June 26, 1863

General W.H.F. "Rooney" Lee was captured by a United States Army raiding party. Just as the Lee family had finished breakfast at Hickory Hill, they heard gunfire in the woods. Still recovering from the wound received at Brandy Station on June 9, Rooney

was unable to flee, but he urged his brother Rob to do so. "The Union raiding party had been sent specifically to capture Rooney, a mission they quickly accomplished by removing him from his sickroom on a mattress, placing him in the Hickory Hill carriage, and driving off to the White House landing dock a few miles downstream on the Pamunkey River."

At first, Rooney Lee was well cared for. He was placed in the hospital at Fort Monroe and was "allowed liberties on his assurance that he would not attempt to escape while there"; but on July 15, he was ordered into close confinement and was threatened with death by hanging if the Confederate authorities executed two United States Army officers being held at Libby Prison. The officers were not executed, although Robert E. Lee apparently made no effort to intervene in the case. Gradually, "restraints on Rooney were relaxed," and he was finally ordered exchanged on February 25, 1864.

### June 28, 1825

At 8 p.m., Robert E. Lee was informed that he had passed the entrance examination at West Point. He stepped forward four paces from a formation of applicants and thereby became Cadet Lee.

### June 29, 1848

Colonel Lee returned to Arlington from the Mexican War after a tedious trip of more than two weeks. "A carriage had been sent over to the Washington station to meet him, but for some reason, he missed it and, instead, borrowed a horse to ride home. Knowing that he was to arrive home that day, everyone at Arlington had been on the lookout. Waiting anxiously for a glimpse of the carriage, no one noticed the lone horseman ascending the road up the hill, and not until 'SPECK' rushed out barking joyfully did they realize that their soldier was home! Great was the excitement in the hall as he embraced his children, then Mary, then her parents. His error in mistaking a friend's little boy for his youngest son, Rob, then 5, added to the hilarity."

# History Happenings

“Do you recollect hat a happy day thirty-three years ago this was?” Robert E. Lee queried his wife during the 1864 siege of Petersburg. This year, we will observe the usual customs at Arlington House on the Lees’ wedding anniversary. The family parlor and dining room will be set up for the wedding, Mrs. Lee’s wedding ring will be displayed, and special talks will be presented.

The Lees’ wedding was one of the happiest occasions to take place at Arlington House. Murray Nelligan describes the event on pp. 187-9 of *Arlington House The Story of the Robert E. Lee Memorial*. According to one of the bridesmaids, Mary Custis “was never lovelier.” In the 1830s, brides usually carried a prayer book, not a bridal bouquet. Robert E. Lee had directed his brother to order him

a pair of white pants but cautioned him not to let the tailor charge too much. In the Lees’ bedchamber, the glass decanters with Mrs. Lee’s initials are purported to be a wedding gift. After the wedding festivities were over, the new couple settled at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, their first home.

**TRIVIA CONTEST:** On his wedding day, what animal did Robert E. Lee compare himself to? Past winners are ineligible. The winner receives a biography of REL. Answers may be emailed or phoned to Karen: [karen\\_kinzey@nps.gov](mailto:karen_kinzey@nps.gov) or 703-235-1530, ext. 226.

Congratulations to Tim and Vanna Lewis, whose anniversary also falls on June 30<sup>th</sup>.



Deodar Cedar tree behind Arlington House

# RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Anne Carter Zimmer, author of *The Robert E. Lee Family Cooking and Housekeeping Book*, mentions that in the Lee family recipe collection she used as the basis of her book, there appear four different recipes for cornbread. Mrs. Zimmer speculates that since each of these is different than any she had previously encountered, perhaps the Lee ladies had "their own extensive repertoire and entered only those outside it". The following recipe for Rice Bread is one of the four cornbread entries, this one written in Mildred Lee's hand, but attributed to "Anne Carter".

Mrs. Zimmer (whose name is also Anne Carter) was curious to identify the Anne Carter who contributed this recipe and, after considerable genealogical research, identified Anne Carters all the way back to seventeenth-century England! She believes the most likely one is her great aunt, Anne Willing Carter Dulany, sister of her maternal grandmother, and a good friend of the Lee's daughter Mildred. She remembered "Nannee" as a "regal presence" wearing black dresses reaching the floor.

## Rice Bread (Anne Carter)

*1 tea cup of raw rice - boiled well done - drain off all the water - stir in a table spoon full of butter - when rice is hot & one teaspoonful of salt. Then stir in a good tea cup of meal - ½ pint of new milk - 2 eggs well beaten together - & last of all 2 teaspoonsful of baking powder - grease with butter the baking pan & bake in a moderately quick oven about 15 minutes.*

¾-1 c. raw rice  
1 T. butter, plus more for greasing the pan  
1 t. salt  
¾-1 c. white water-ground cornmeal  
1 c. part half-and half, part cream  
2 eggs  
2 t. baking powder

In a large pot of water, boil rice about 20 minutes until soft. Drain in a colander. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Stir butter into hot rice. Stir baking powder and salt into meal. Butter well 1 or 2 shallow baking pans about 8 x 10 inches in size (glass or heavy iron pans give the best crust). Combine cornmeal mixture with rice. Add milk to beaten eggs and stir in. For 2 pans, bake about 15 minutes in top quarter of oven, or until lightly browned; for 1 pan, bake in middle of oven 25-30 minutes. Cut in squares. Serve hot.

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## Additional Volunteer Opportunities

**Arlington House Woodlands Rescue** —  
Volunteers are needed to help eradicate invasive, exotic plants from the Arlington House Woodlands, an uncut vestige of forest George Washington Parke Custis set aside in 1802. Beginning at 9 a.m., work teams will remove invasive exotic plants. This event will be held the third Saturday of the month from April to October.

Saturday, June 18, 2005  
Saturday, July 16, 2005

Saturday, August 20, 2005  
Saturday, September 17, 2005  
Saturday, October 15, 2005

**Garden Volunteer Work Days at Arlington House**—Arlington House seeks Garden Clubs (and other groups) to co-sponsor garden work days at Arlington House. Garden Club work days will give Garden Clubs (and other groups) members an opportunity to volunteer their special skills,

while enjoying the company and companionship of friends, acquaintances, and other gardeners. It is essential that the volunteers be experienced gardeners with detailed knowledge of gardening and plants.

Garden Volunteer Work Days will be held on Saturday mornings. If your group is interested in volunteering, please call Delphine Gross at 703 235-1530 ext 227 or e-mail [Delphine\\_Gross@nps.gov](mailto:Delphine_Gross@nps.gov)

# June 2005

## Arlington House VIP Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Jack McKay 9:30-12:30  Arlene Riley 2:00-4:00	<b>2</b> Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30  Charlotte Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00  Gene Cross 11:00-4:30	<b>3</b> Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30  Amanda Bennett 1:00-4:00	<b>4</b> Marmie Edwards 10:00-4:30
<b>5</b> Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30  Delia Rios 1:00-3:00	<b>6</b> Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	<b>7</b> Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	<b>8</b> Jack McKay 9:30-12:30  Arlene Riley 2:00-4:00	<b>9</b> Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30  Charlotte Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00  Gene Cross 11:00-4:30  Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30	<b>10</b> Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30  Elene Paul 12:30-4:30  Amanda Bennett 1:00-4:00	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30  Delia Rios 1:00-3:00	<b>13</b> Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Jack McKay 9:30-12:30  Arlene Riley 2:00-4:00	<b>16</b> Charlotte Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00  Gene Cross 11:00-4:30	<b>17</b> Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30  Amanda Bennett 1:00-4:00	<b>18</b> Vanna Lewis 10:00-4:30  Elene Paul 10:00-2:00
<b>19</b> J.B. McCraw 9:30-1:00  Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	<b>20</b> Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	<b>21</b> Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30  Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	<b>22</b> Jack McKay 9:30-12:30  Arlene Riley 2:00-4:00	<b>23</b> Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30  Charlotte Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00  Gene Cross 11:00-4:30	<b>24</b> Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30  Elene Paul 12:30-4:30  Amanda Bennett 1:00-4:00	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30  Delia Rios 1:00-3:00	<b>27</b> Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	<b>28</b> Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30  Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	<b>29</b> Jack McKay 9:30-12:30  Arlene Riley 2:00-4:00	<b>30</b> Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30  Charlotte Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00		

**If you are available to volunteer, but are not on the calendar please call Delphine so you can be added to the schedule.**



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Arlington House  
The Robert E. Lee Memorial  
c/o George Washington Memorial Parkway  
Turkey Run Park  
McLean, VA 22101

<<Name>>  
<<Address>>  
<<CityStateZip>>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The Spectacle is a monthly newsletter for the volunteers of Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial.

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Turkey Run Park  
McLean, VA 22101

## Volunteers Needed

The roster of active volunteers is in dire need of additional names! If you know anyone interested in joining our ranks please refer them to Delphine Gross, Volunteer Coordinator (703) 235-1530 ext 227.

